

spearheaded environmental land-use projects to revitalize Suisun City. As chair of the City of Suisun's Redevelopment Agency, he led efforts to reinvigorate the Suisun City Waterfront and better its integration into the community. His leadership in land-use planning has undeniably enhanced the community and ushered Suisun City into a new era of prosperity.

While his presence on the Board of Supervisors will surely be missed, Mr. Sperring's 36 years of service have reflected the very best of public office and will continue to improve the lives of citizens for many years to come. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Mr. Sperring's dedication and commitment to public service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING REGINA BIANUCCI RUS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Regina Bianucci Rus who is being honored as Citizen of the Year by the City of Novato for her exemplary public service.

A 25-year resident of Novato, Ms. Rus dedicated more than two decades of community service to the city through numerous and varied roles. As a business owner and accounting expert, Ms. Rus has shared her professional and leadership skills with the community, including as a board member and president of Novato Human Needs, a long-standing member of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Novato Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, and a volunteer with the League of Women Voters of Marin County.

Her volunteer service varied from providing professional expertise and board leadership, to rolling up her sleeves to work on the annual July Fourth Buckaroo Breakfast, and volunteering at the Marin Food Bank. She also played a critical role in supporting the efforts to restore the Novato Theater.

Ms. Rus's commitment to improving quality education is also extensive. She was a founding board member, treasurer, and president of School Fuel, president of San Marin High School's Parent Teacher Association, a math tutor for elementary students, and a high school guest speaker on financial literacy.

She is also an active member of the Presbyterian Church of Novato. She was a member of the Finance and Administration Committee, and currently serves as an Elder of the Mission Committee. Through her work with the church, she has volunteered on trips to Juarez, Mexico to build homes for families-in-need; coordinated COVID-19 vaccination clinics in partnership with Marin County; and established the Snack Sack program, providing Marin County Mobile Shower recipients with lunches prepared by church members.

For her substantial volunteer service, Ms. Rus has been honored with numerous accolades, including the Novato Chamber of Commerce 2011 Women in Business Leadership Award and the California State PTA 2020 Golden Oak Service Award. Known for her grace, intelligence, and innovative manner, she is respected for always prioritizing the betterment of her community.

In her personal time, Ms. Rus is a musician and athlete. Since 2012, she has performed with the Las Gallinas Sanitary District Non-Marching Band. And, she has finished the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon 25 times and since assumed the role of volunteer race director.

Ms. Rus's commitment to the City of Novato has been and continues to be significant and enduring. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Ms. Rus for her enduring public service, and in extending to her congratulations for being honored as the City of Novato's Citizen of the Year.

REMEMBERING RICHARD VALLE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representatives BARBARA LEE, MARK DESAULNIER, and RO KHANNA to recognize the life of Alameda County Board Supervisor Richard Valle on the occasion of his passing on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Richard was born and raised in Union City and attended schools in New Haven Unified School District. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a medic and served in the Vietnam War in 1970. Upon his return, Richard attended Chabot College and California State University, East Bay to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Public Administration.

In 1980 Richard founded Tri-City Economic Development Corporation, more commonly known as TriCED Community Recycling, which provides employment opportunities and job training for underprivileged youth. As President and CEO of Tri-CED, Richard oversaw the organization's growth into the largest nonprofit recycling organization in California.

Richard began his career in public service in 1997 when he was first elected as Union City councilmember, where he served for 13 years until 2010. In 2012, Richard was appointed and subsequently re-elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to represent District 2, which includes Hayward, Union City, Newark, and portions of Fremont.

During his 11-year tenure, Richard was a tireless advocate for sustainability, safety-net services, and community programs for youth. Supervisor Valle held annual volunteer appreciation events, the Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll event to promote walkable neighborhoods and helped create Science in the Park to promote STEM-focused youth programs. He served on the Board of St. Rose Hospital and was vice-chair of the statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling.

Richard was a pillar of the Tri-City community for over two decades. Despite his two-year battle with prostate cancer, Richard remained dedicated to helping others. Alameda County has suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of this committed public servant. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Barbara, his son, Andrew, his daughter, Monica, and his three grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
DANIEL MORENO LOFTON

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Daniel Moreno Lofton and share this dedication by this family.

Daniel was born into this world on October 16, 1946, in Tucson, Arizona, to Peter Lofton and Jane Moreno. He was the eldest of his siblings. Daniel was presented to the Lord at the First Apostolic Church of Tucson by Pastor Reyes Coronado. At the young age of 19, Daniel made the life-changing decision to follow Jesus. He was baptized by Pastor Joe Fregoso at the First Apostolic Church of Tucson.

Soon after, he was drafted by the United States Army and served as Combat Medic in the Vietnam War from September 1967 through September 1969. As a Combat Medic, he was at the frontlines, ready to render life-saving aid to the wounded and, in other cases, recover the remains of those soldiers lost and ensure that no man was left behind. During his service, he received the following medals, badges, and commendations: National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Air Medal; Bronze Star Medal; Combat Medical Badge; and Army Commendation Medal. When he did speak about his personal experiences in the war, it was to acknowledge how the hand of God was upon his life and spared him from bullets as they grazed by the sides of his face and ears while he rendered aid or how he was kept safe as he traversed minefields to get to the wounded. He was always grateful to have made it back with no physical injuries and always made it a point of importance in his life to acknowledge the service of his fellow veterans and the sacrifice of those that did not make it back. Daniel continued serving as an employee of the Veterans Administration Hospital for 35 years until he retired.

In 1969, Daniel met Mireya Anna Luisa Martinez at the First Apostolic Church in Tucson while she was visiting her cousin Pastor Gilbert Samano, Sr., and his family. As the friendship and love grew, they decided to marry, and on April 3, 1971, in the presence of their family and friends, they exchanged their vows and were married by Pastor Pablo Rodriguez at the First Apostolic Church of Compton, CA. Daniel and Mireya were blessed with two children, Ann Marie Lofton and Daniel Lofton, Jr.

Those close to Daniel knew him for his thoughtful and caring personality. His kindness and unwavering willingness to serve others were demonstrated through his service as an ordained minister in the Apostolic Assembly. During his tenure, he served in many leadership roles in the men's auxiliary at the district, sector, and local levels. In addition, he was assistant pastor both in San Gabriel and Whittier, CA. His ministry was characterized by visiting and praying for the sick and elderly, utilizing the gift and calling the Lord had placed upon him. He had a heart for those in need, and often, he could be found providing a meal and a word of encouragement to brighten someone's day. Other times he would ask his

wife, Anna, to pack extra sandwiches or burritos for lunch to share with someone he knew was in need. When one of his co-workers died with no next of kin, he took it upon himself to contact the Veteran's Administration and gather all the necessary paperwork to ensure that he was given a proper burial. This was typical of Daniel. Always compassionate; always generous.

As often remembered by his family, when challenges presented themselves, a few of his favorite sayings to bring encouragement were "Help is on the way!" "Trust in Almighty God!" and "All things are possible if you only believe." How could one not feel better after hearing those words?

As a young man growing up on the south side of Tucson, Danny attended Sunnyside High School, where he excelled in varsity track and field and cross country, winning various awards and competitions. His specialty was the 100-yard dash, where he went on to win the city championship. He also played varsity football. Daniel loved sports and enjoyed going to games with his family or watching them on TV with his son. His passion for sports would not be complete if we did not mention how much he enjoyed watching and rooting for the U of A Wildcats.

Daniel loved his family. He enjoyed spending time with his mother, Jane, visiting his aunts and uncles, and sharing family time with his sisters, brothers, and cousins. He also enjoyed his visits with his mother-in-law, Maria Luisa, and the extended family gatherings. He especially enjoyed his time with his wife and children. Family dinners, traveling, historical sites, and church events were happily spent together.

On January 23, 2023, Daniel entered into his rest surrounded by his wife and son. Until we meet again, dear husband, father, brother, and friend, you will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

Daniel was predeceased by his daughter, Ann Marie Lofton-Arce, as well as his brothers, David and Jesse. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mireya Anna Lofton; his son Daniel M. Lofton, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Angelica T. Lofton; and grandson, Zachary Arce. He is also survived by his sister, Lydia; step-sisters, Esther, Sylvia, Lourdes, Dolores, Alice, Rosemary and Emma; and stepbrothers, Michael and Arthur.

CELEBRATING THE 77TH ANNUAL VICTORIA LIVESTOCK SHOW

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the City of Victoria in celebrating the 77th annual Victoria Livestock Show. This year's show will take place from February 22 through 26, 2023.

The first Victoria Livestock Show was held in 1941. Shortly after, the show was suspended due to World War II. In 1947, the Victoria Jaycees decided to revive the livestock show, beginning with 4-H and FFA events in 1947 to pique people's interest. A show was put together a year later, and since then, it has been an annual Crossroads tradition.

The Victoria Livestock Show highlights the work that 4-H and FFA students have put into

raising and auctioning livestock. Today, it is larger than ever, with its 2021 auction raising more than \$820,000. In addition to the auction, a centerpiece of the Victoria Livestock show is the carnival, which includes rides, games, food, and even wiener dog races. Other fun activities include mutton bustin', goat roping, and the annual Queen Victoria pageant.

The Victoria Livestock Show embodies the heart of the Crossroads region, and I look forward to this year's show.

HONORING THE VACAVILLE PEOPLE'S FORUM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vacaville People's Forum in celebration of their 3rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park Parade.

Founded with the goal of amplifying the voices of underrepresented populations, the Vacaville People's Forum provides the invaluable service of informing local voters in often overlooked elections. Their work in holding elected officials accountable is a significant part of having an effective local government and an important job in Vacaville.

Their work includes highlighting outstanding members of our community on social media through campaigns like their "31 Inspiring Women in Vacaville," where they recognized inspiring women in industries ranging from healthcare and education to non-profits.

The Vacaville People's Forum further enriches their community by organizing events like the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park Parade, the Pride in the Park, and the Be You 2022 Event for individuals with special needs, all of which were held within the last year.

These events are an essential part of our community. They bring us closer together and help fight the systemic issues that impact our most vulnerable populations. The hard work, commitment, and dedicated service of the Vacaville People's Forum on the 3rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park event showcases the best qualities of our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Vacaville People's Forum has been a source of quality debate for public officials and community building events in Vacaville. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that they are honored here today.

RECOGNIZING THE STRENGTH OF THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE AND RECOMMITTING TO SUPPORT THEIR FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strength of the Ukrainian people after enduring one year of merciless attacks by Russian forces. February 24, 2023, marks one year since Vladimir Putin's unprovoked in-

vasion of Ukraine, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions of people.

When Putin ordered his tanks and forces into regions like Mariupol and Kharkiv, he thought Ukraine would fall in a matter of days. Instead of an easy victory, Putin's war of aggression has been a dismal failure.

In the past year, I visited Ukraine right before the Russian invasion and again this past summer. There, I saw clear evidence of Putin's war crimes—atrocities against civilians and children, and attacks on the Ukrainian people's very existence as a nation. I walked around St. Andrew's Church in Bucha where 116 people were buried in a mass grave because the city morgue was completely occupied. But I also saw Ukrainians display remarkable resilience and bravery, even when Russian forces attacked basic services and critical civilian infrastructure.

The people of Ukraine refuse to be forced into an authoritarian state where any opposition is met with jail, torture, or murder. They are prepared to pay the ultimate price for their freedom. Ukrainian armed forces and leadership, like President Zelensky, defend their homeland with skill, determination, and bravery.

I have met with many NATO members over the past year and am proud to report that NATO is stronger than ever. We are more united than ever in providing military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support Ukraine's right to sovereignty.

The United States and our Western allies understand that Putin's invasion of Ukraine is not just a Ukraine problem, it's a battle between democracy and authoritarianism worldwide. We are delivering a strong and unequivocal answer: we will stand guard over freedom today, tomorrow, and forever.

Since the invasion, the United States has provided unprecedented support and coordination, which has helped the Ukrainian military make exponential gains. During my last trip, I told President Zelensky about his deep support from the Ukrainian-American community here in the United States. I have met with Parliamentarians from Ukraine throughout the war, twice in the past two months alone, as well as the Mayor of Kyiv, and it is always important to me to share the deep support they have from Americans from across the country.

Our area, which has one of the largest Ukrainian-American populations in the United States, has demonstrated remarkable generosity and determination to support the children, families, and servicemembers of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Cultural Center of NJ has shipped 18 containers to Ukraine with aid valued at over \$4 million. Local families have opened their homes to Ukrainians seeking refuge from the conflict. Our local governments and law enforcement have sent supplies, including equipment like bullet-proof vests.

Picatinny Arsenal in my congressional district has been integral to Ukraine's military success. They have developed the primary cannon being used by the Ukrainian army, and continue to be responsible for every piece of ammunition being sent by the United States to Ukraine. We are so proud of their work and dedication.

The U.S. and our fellow democracies must continue to support Ukraine in 2023 to prevent a new era of authoritarianism. I remain committed to protecting the fundamental values of